

Message Text

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71

ACTION EB-07

INFO OCT-01 EA-07 ISO-00 CIAE-00 COME-00 DODE-00 DOTE-00

FMC-01 INR-07 NSAE-00 CG-00 OFA-01 DLOS-04 SAL-01

PRS-01 AS-01 /031 W

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R 130038Z JAN 76

FM AMEMBASSY CANBERRA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7254

INFO AMCONSUL SYDNEY

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FOR EB/TT/MA

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EWWT, AS, US

SUBJECT: SHIPPING: BULKFRIDGE APPLICATION TO JOIN AUSTRALIA-EAST COAST USA CONFERENCE

1. AUSTRALIAN FINANCIAL REVIEW OF JANUARY 12 CARRIES ARTICLE WHICH, AMONG OTHER THINGS, REVIVES ISSUE OF BULKFRIDGE APPLICATION TO JOIN AUSTRALIA-EAST COAST USA SHIPPING CONFERENCE, A CASE WHICH WE ASSUMED HAD BEEN OVERTAKEN BY RECENT DEVELOPMENTS LEADING TO VIRTUAL BREAKUP OF CONFERENCE. ARTICLE STATED THAT INCOMING MINISTER FOR TRANSPORT, MR. PETER NIXON, CURRENTLY HAS BEFORE HIM TRADE PRACTICES TRIBUNAL "DECISION" ON BULKFRIDGE APPLICATION WHICH SUPPORTS ENTRY OF BULKFRIDGE INTO CONFERENCE.

2. HOWEVER, DURING DISCUSSION OF ARTICLE BY EMBASSY OFFICER WITH ASSISTANT SECRETARY GRIGOR IN DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION, GRIGOR STATED IT NOT ACCURATE TO SAY TRADE PRACTICES TRIBUNAL TO MAKE "DECISION" IN CASE. RATHER TRIBUNAL IS EMPOWERED TO MAKE INQUIRIES AND REPORT TO GOVERNMENT, THRUST OF WHICH MAY WELL SUPPORT BULKFRIDGE CASE. GRIGOR ALSO RECALLED THAT BULKFRIDGE HAD INSTITUTED LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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SIMILAR ACTION IN US WITH FMC AND INQUIRED IF EMBASSY

HAD ANY INFORMATION ON ITS STATUS.

4. COMMENT AND ACTION REQUESTED: WE ARE SURPRISED THAT BULKFRIDGE APPLICATION IS STILL LIVE ISSUE. IT IS POSSIBLE THAT CASE WAS PURSUED AS INSURANCE AGAINST EVENTUALITY PENDING ACTIONS BOTH IN US AND AUSTRALIA REGARDING EXCLUSIVE CONTRACT WITH AUSTRALIAN MEAT BOARD COULD GO AGAINST CONTAINER LINES. WE AGREED TO INQUIRE AS TO BULKFRIDGE APPLICATION STATUS IN FMC AND PASS ANY INFORMATION RECEIVED TO GRIGOR. WILL THEREFORE APPRECIATE ANY INFORMATION AVAILABLE IN WASHINGTON FOR THIS PURPOSE.
PERCIVAL

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04 MAY 2006

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